

## REACTIVE PATHWAYS IN THE CHLOROBENZENE-AMMONIA DIMER CATION RADICAL: NEW INSIGHTS FROM EXPERIMENT AND THEORY

SILVER NYAMBO, BRANDON UHLER, AIMABLE KALUME, LLOYD MUZANGWA, SCOTT REID,  
*Department of Chemistry, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, USA.*

Previously, we have studied non-covalent interactions in mono-halogenated benzene clusters using mass selected resonant 2-photon ionization methods. We have extended our studies by investigating the interaction between these mono-halobenzenes with a prototypical N atom donor ( $\text{NH}_3$ ). Thus, we have obtained electronic spectra of  $\text{PhX} \cdots (\text{NH}_3)_n$  ( $\text{X}=\text{F}$ ,  $\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{Br}$  and  $n=1,2,\dots$ ) complexes in the region of the  $\text{PhX}$  monomer  $S_0-S_1$  ( $\pi\pi^*$ ) transition. Here we are mainly focusing on  $\text{PhCl} \cdots \text{NH}_3$  dimer. We found that upon ionization of the dimer, three reactive pathways of the  $[\text{PhCl} \cdots \text{NH}_3]^{+\cdot}$  have been evidenced. The primary pathway is the  $\text{Cl}$  atom elimination, previously evidenced. The second and third pathways,  $\text{HCl}$  elimination and  $\text{H}$  atom elimination are identified for the first time in the R2PI studies of the dimer. Electronic spectra obtained for the three pathways shows that they originate from a common precursor. The reactive pathways in this system were extensively characterized computationally. We used DFT and post-Hartree Fock electronic structure calculations, Frank-Condon analysis to support our experimental findings. The results were consistent with previous direct ab initio molecular dynamics calculations, we found two nearly iso-energetic Wheland intermediates which lie significantly lower in energy than the initially formed dimer cation radical  $[\text{PhCl} \cdots \text{NH}_3]^{+\cdot}$ .